

Message Text

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43

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7427

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17949

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: FCO BRIEFING NOVEMBER 8

1. ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY MANSFIELD INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER NOVEMBER 8 THAT IVOR RICHARD WILL COME TO LONDON TONIGHT OR TOMORROW MORNING TO PARTICIPATE IN A REVIEW OF WHERE THINGS STAND IN GENEVA. HE SAID CROSLAND HAD JUST RETURNED FROM YUGOSLAVIA AND HAD ASKED FOR THE REVIEW. TACTICAL DECISIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED, PARTICULARLY ON THE ISSUE OF AN INDEPENDENCE DATE, ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL AFTER THE DISCUSSIONS HERE.

2. MANSFIELD ALSO MENTIONED A SEPARATE BUT PERHAPS RELATED DEVELOPMENT. NYERERE SAW THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN DAR ES SALAAM AFTER HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR REINHARDT. NYERERE TOLD THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT THERE WERE NOW TWO ISSUES IN GENEVA: THE DATE OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE TRANSFER OF POWER. IF THE LATTER WERE ACCOMPLISHED PROPERLY -- THAT IS, IF BRITAIN ASSUMED AUTHORITY IN RHODESIA -- THEN THE FORMER MATTERED LITTLE. BUT IF BRITAIN IS NOT WILLING TO TAKE ON A ROLE, NYERERE SAID, THEN THE NATIONALISTS WILL STICK WITH THEIR DEMAND FOR INDEPENDENCE IN TWELVE MONTHS AND REFUSE TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER ISSUES.

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